

**Security Notice**  
**Update to Procedures for Build 8 RDA Remote Access Software Installation and Use**  
**For NWS and DOD Sites Only**

**Background/Issue:**

The Radar Operations Center (ROC) has the responsibility for scanning and reporting on all WSR-88D software deployed to the field, software under development, and the responsibility to provide procedures for the installation and maintenance of all WSR-88D software. Most of the procedures apply to installation on WSR-88D equipment. However, some procedures apply to installation of WSR-88D software on non WSR-88D equipment.

The Regions/WFOs and DOD have the responsibility for scanning and reporting on Agency owned laptops. Agency laptops are used for multiple purposes and have different applications among the Agency.

NWS EHB-6, Software Note 34; and DoD: TO 31P1-4-108-657 applies to installation of WSR-88D software on non WSR-88D equipment. The procedures are for Radar Data Acquisition (RDA) remote access software installation on Agency owned laptops. The procedures specify the use of any Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 1.4.2 and Microsoft Windows 98 or higher.

When the RDA remote access software installation instructions were written, patches were available for Microsoft Windows 98 and JRE 1.4.2 exploits were not well known. Since the documents were released, Microsoft Windows 98 has reached its end of support, effective July 11, 2006, and vulnerabilities have surfaced for certain versions of JRE 1.4.2. The procedures are now out of date. The last quarterly Harris scan indicates high and medium category vulnerabilities associated with several early versions of JRE 1.4.2.

**New Guidance:**

Microsoft Windows XP or higher must be installed on all laptops used for RDA remote access software installation so that current patches are available and applied. In addition, JRE 1.4.2.12 must be installed on any laptop used for RDA remote access software installation. This is required because the software has been tested for compatibility with the RDA HCI and because JRE 1.4.2.12 passes the required Harris quarterly vulnerability scans using the NOAA\_VulnSet\_121506.dat.

Build 9 software and instructions will be updated to reflect this new guidance.

In the past, the ROC did NOT perform Harris scans on laptops as part of routine security testing because laptops were never established as baseline WSR-88D equipment. This has somewhat changed, as a result of the last Harris scan. Although the laptops will continue to be non WSR-88D equipment, the ROC will perform scans on “ROC specified hardware and software”, in the future. The ROC will notify each Region Headquarters Information Technology Security Officers (ITSOs) and the WSR-88D DOD representative, in advance of Harris quarterly scan input due dates. This allows the ROC to determine if changes in specified software are

necessary to meet appropriate patch management requirements. It further allows the ROC to provide the Region ITSOs and DOD a heads-up on laptop scan results and identifies potential laptop upgrades needed for WSR-88D support purposes.